MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE SPICES BOARD

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I move the following motion:

> "That in pursuance of clause (b) of Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Species Board Act, 1986 (No.10 of 1986) read with Rule 4(1)(b) and Rule 5(1) of the Species Board Rules, 1987, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House, to be a member of the Spices Board to fill up the vacancy which will be arising therein w.e.f. January 28, 2003 consequent on the expiry of the term of Shri S.Agniraj, Member, Rajya Sabha in the Board."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for transparency in importing of currency note papers

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra): Since Independence, we were importing currency note papers from an England threw company. To make the purchase transparent, Finance Ministry decided to go for tender system. They called tenders from companies in Germany, France, U.S. and England. Our requirement of currency note paper is about 36,000 metric tonnes. In 1994, the British Company bagged the tender at the rate of 6,000 pounds per tonne whereas in 1998, their competitors, due to the transparent tendering process, could get orders at the cost of $5,200 per tonne (4000 pounds). In 1998, tenders were called by the Government of India and R.B.I. separately and the contract was signed separately. These reports published in Deccan Herald in November, 2002, show that a high-powered committee constituted by the Government had suggested some security features for the manufacture of currency notes. Unfortunately, another technical sub-committee has sought to dilute these security features. Their currency paper is not capable of incorporating the security features